

March 8, 2005

**To:** NITC Commissioners  
**From:** Anne Byers  
**Subject:** Community Council Membership

At the Community Council meeting on Feb. 23, 2005, the Community Council approved the nominations of three new members and the renewals of four members. We are asking for your approval of the nominations and renewals of the following individuals:

**New Members**

- John Jordison, Great Plains Communications
- Lynn Manhart, Central City Public Library
- Steve Williams, Nebraska Department of Economic Development

**Renewals**

- K.C. Belitz, Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce
- Norene Fitzgerald, York County Development Corporation
- Georgia Masters Keightley, City of Crawford
- Mary Wernke, Letter Perfect Communications

Biographical information on Steve Williams, Lynn Manhart, and John Jordison are included on the following pages.

**Lynn Manhart**  
**Director**  
**Central City Public Library**

I am a Nebraskan native and upon graduation of high school, I enlisted into the Active Duty Army for four years. Upon discharge I enlisted into the Nebraska Army National Guards and entered college at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. I now have a Bachelor's Degree in Broadcast Journalism, and I am completing a career in the military with 24 years of combined service. My career field in the military began as an enlisted medical aid, and ended as an officer in administration. I commanded a postal unit and two training sites. I taught Officer Candidate School, Drug and Alcohol Awareness, computer classes and Diversity.

The achievement I am most proud of is being the library director at Central City Public Library. I enjoy working with the public and learning new things as I go along. Our services reflect the changing needs of our customers. As of date, we have 9 computers available to the public and broadcast and maintain Central City's community channel.

My husband teaches for Central City Public Schools and we have two beautiful daughters. We intend on having our daughters grow up in a community that will provide a good education in a safe environment. Central City is a very family oriented community with great opportunities for our children. Our schools, library, child development center, and fitness center are all state-of-the-art facilities which is important in an ever-changing world. Thank you for taking the time in considering my nomination to the NITC Community Council.

**John C. Jordison**  
**Director of Government Affairs and Economic Development**  
**Great Plains Communications**

John C. Jordison was born April 25, 1951 in Fort Dodge, Iowa. He graduated from Hoover High School in Des Moines, Iowa. Although accepted academically to attend the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, he attended Drake University in Des Moines, graduating in 1973 with a BA degree in Journalism.

Jordison worked for the *Webster City Daily Freeman-Journal* in 1974-75, served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Niger, West Africa in 1975, co-founded *The Iowa High School Athletic News* and served as president and publisher in 1976-78, and worked in sales for Xerox Corporation in 1978-79.

From 1979 through 1986, Jordison served in various capacities for Northern Natural Gas Company, Peoples Natural Gas Company, and other subsidiaries of InterNorth, Inc. in Omaha, Nebraska. In 1986, he became president of the Nebraska Tax Research Council

in Lincoln, Nebraska, a non-profit, non-partisan fiscal policy analysis organization that monitors state and local government tax and spending issues.

In late 2002, after 16 years with the Tax Research Council, Jordison accepted the position of Director of Government Affairs and Economic Development with Great Plains Communications in Blair, Nebraska, a family-owned telecommunications company.

Great Plains Communications provides telecommunications, cable television and Internet services to 77 Nebraska communities, which are located across Nebraska from Imperial to Gordon to Ponca to Red Cloud. Great Plains' service area represents 13 percent of the geographic area of Nebraska, but less than five percent of the population. The company is dedicated to promoting community and economic development in its service area and the preservation of "rural Nebraska."

Jordison is married to LouAnn Vollertsen Jordison. They have five adult children, and reside on an acreage east of Lincoln.

**Steve Williams**  
**Development Consultant—New and Existing Business**  
**Nebraska Department of Economic Development**

Steve Williams has been with the Nebraska Department of Economic Development since 1979. Between 1979 and 1987, he worked in the Research Division focusing on community and housing development. After staffing Governor Kerry's task forces on small business equity and public pension fund investment in 1983, his work shifted more toward business development research and consulting.

Since 1988, Steve Williams has operated the 'One-Stop' business assistance office and beginning in 1993 the affiliated Internet site which became [assist.neded.org](http://assist.neded.org). An average year sees approximately 2,500 requests from startup and existing businesses for various types of information and assistance.

Steve Williams also served as a board member of the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Board, 1985-89 (representing State employees).